GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1173
ANSWERED ON:25.02.2003
DISCOVERY OF NEW SOURCE OF GENERATION OF ELECTRIC CURRENT
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Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Institute of Science have discovered a new source of generation of electric current by passing liquids like water through capillaries of carbon;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which this discovery can be applied successfully for the use of human beings; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure timely utilization of this discovery including financial support therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT)

(a) & (b) Yes, scientists at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore have shown that flow of liquids over single wall carbon nanotubes generates an electric voltage across the sample. The scientists have also applied for an Indian as well as US Patent on this finding.

(c) Considerable work is required before these findings can be converted into useful devices. It is difficult to predict a definite time-frame at this stage.

(d) The Patents have been filed by the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of IndiaDST has been extending financial support for the last five years for this research on carbon nanotubes.